

## Claims

I claim:

1. A home or office security system comprising:

an electronic appliance having:

an appliance component for effecting a primary function of the appliance that is independent of security, and <sup>Fig 2</sup>

a status reporter for actively and conditionally communicating a status of the appliance;

an alarm activation processor, operably coupled to the status reporter, for receiving the status and effecting an alarm response dependent on the status and dependent upon a rule base associated with the appliance.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein:

the system comprises a second appliance with a second appliance component for effecting a second primary function independent of security; and

the alarm activation processor is integrated in the second appliance. <sup>Fig 2</sup>

3. The system of claim 2, wherein:

the status reporter and the alarm activation processor each comprise a respective HAVi-compliant module to facilitate communicating the status.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein:

the status reporter and the alarm activation processor each comprise a respective Home API-compliant module to facilitate communicating the status.

5. The system of claim 1, further including

an area security devices for detecting an area status of an area;

wherein:

the activation processor is also operably coupled to the area security device and further  
5 effects the each alarm response dependent on the area status.

6. An electronic appliance for use in a security system, the appliance comprising:

an appliance component for effecting a primary function independent of security; and

a status reporter for actively and conditionally communicating a status of the appliance;

10 wherein the security system has an alarm activation processor operably coupled to the  
status reporter for receiving the status and effecting an alarm response dependent on the status  
and dependent on a rule base associated with the appliance.

7. The appliance of claim 6, wherein the status reporter is HAVi compliant.

8. The appliance of claim 6 wherein the status reporter is Home API compliant

9. An electronic appliance for use in a security system, the appliance comprising:

an appliance component for effecting a primary function independent of security; and

an alarm activation processor for effecting an alarm response dependent on a status  
received from a status reporter of another appliance and dependent on a rule base associated with  
the other appliance.

10. The appliance of claim 9, wherein the alarm activation processor is HAVi compliant.

11. The appliance of claim 9, wherein the alarm activation processor is Home API compliant.

12. The appliance of claim 9, wherein

the alarm activation processor is also operably coupled to an area security device that provides an area status and

the alarm response is further dependent on the area status.

13. A method for providing security to a first appliance comprising the steps of:

storing a rule base associated with the first appliance at a second appliance,

communicating a status of the first appliance to the second appliance,

determining an alarm response at the second appliance based on the rule base and the status of the first appliance,

wherein the first appliance has a first appliance function that is independent of security, and the second appliance has a second appliance function that is independent of security.

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